

# THE SABRES' BLADE

May 21, 1997

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

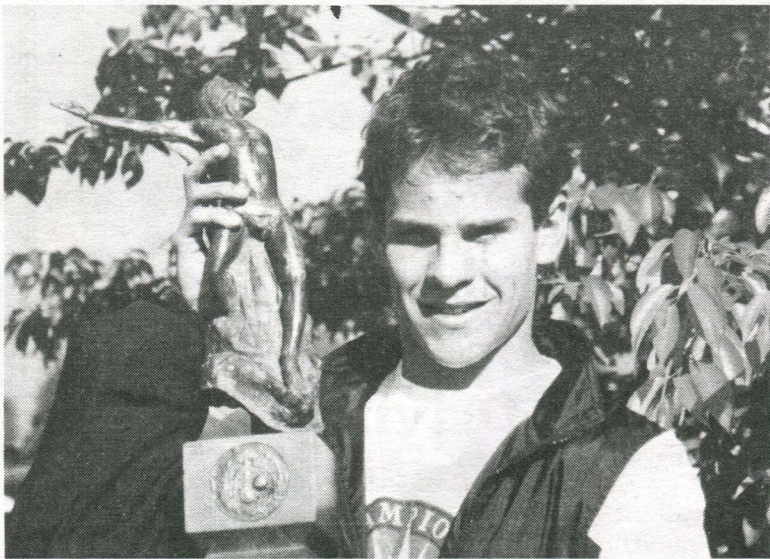
Volume XXIV

## Mauriello wins Phil Hughston

By Cliff Mauriello

On April 24, First Union Corporation presented the Twenty-sixth Annual Phil Hughston Memorial Award to Michael Mauriello as the outstanding senior male student-athlete in Mecklenburg County. The two other finalists for the award were Thorsten Sundberg of Myers Park High School and Joshua Sanger of Harding University High School.

Mauriello lettered in cross country and track and field every year he has attended South Mecklenburg. He has also won four All-Conference Awards, two All-Regional Awards, and a Regional Cross Country Title.



Mauriello is South's first winner in ten years.

He is a member of Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, and Beta Club. He is also the Treasurer of the National Honor Society.

In his acceptance speech, Michael thanked cross country and track and field coach Evans Lallas for all his support over the last four years. He also thanked senior counselor Mrs. Spencer, his teachers, his friends, and his parents.

Mauriello is the first South Mecklenburg student to win the award since 1987, when it was bestowed on Joey Peterson. South's only other winner was Cindy Ballenger in 1986.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was University of South Carolina Gamecocks head football coach Brad Scott. Scott spoke about people of integrity, an outstanding trait of the late Phil Hughston. Superintendent of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Dr. Eric Smith cited Mauriello as an excellent example of a person with integrity.

"He is the kind of person we would love to have run for public office," said Smith.

Mauriello, however, has no plans to go into politics. He will study architecture at the School of Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

## Peaceful Sabres conduct racism conference

By Cliff Mauriello

Sixty-seven members of the South Mecklenburg student body participated in a race relations conference on April 22. The delegates represented all four classes and various ethnic backgrounds.

Community volunteers separated the delegates into small groups and discussed racism on campus. The groups identified problems caused by racism and proposed five different ideas to help make students more aware of other ethnic groups.

The delegates' proposals included having an interracial lunch every Thursday in the old cafeteria. Those who participate would eat lunch with members of other races.

Weekend socials and a "True Colors" social were also presented as options for the student body.

A cultural fair similar to Arcade Day was also suggested.

The final proposal was a contract that students would sign, in which they would promise to be more open-minded. None of the proposals have been approved by the administration.

Delegate Andy Babcock said the suggestions were designed around the Golden Rule.

"We hoped to promote 'Do unto others as they would do unto you' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself,'" said Babcock.

The delegates watched the film The War Between the Classes to illustrate the need to deal with racism in schools.

The Peaceful Sabres hope to avoid conflict on South Mecklenburg's campus.

## Cafeteria robbed

By Katie Payerle

On the afternoon of April 9, Debbie Webb, the cafeteria manager, was counting money when she turned to face a man holding a gun demanding that she hand over the bag of bills. While she cannot release the amount stolen, Webb recalls her initial reaction. "I just didn't believe it was happening," she said. Now, in the wake of the robbery, the administrative staff at South has taken steps to avoid a repeat occurrence. "It is disturbing to think that a school has become a target for a robber," said Dr. Knox. According to Knox, the

safety procedures have been reviewed with all employees. They have emphasized the importance of making sure two people are present while counting money and that someone knows when Webb leaves school to deposit the money.

Dr. Knox does not believe that the robbery is an accurate measure of the safety on campus. "This robbery was one of the flukes that happens in life. Any organization can be robbed: First Union, 7-11, a taxi cab driver. This one just happened to be South Meck."

## Davis named Athletic Director

By Katie Payerle

The 1996-1997 school year marks the end of Ron Hillier's five years as the Athletic Director at South. Herb Davis, basketball coach and U.S. history teacher for twenty-one years will take his place.

Hillier looks fondly on his years at South. "I had a great time here. I'm going to miss South," he said. "I don't think there is a better school anywhere." Hillier feels that this year is a good time to retire because it is the end of one of his

best years at South. "We had a lot of talent this year," he said.

Davis' new position is the next step in the ladder he has climbed at South Meck. In 1965, Davis graduated from South as one of only five African-American students in his class. He then returned to coach junior varsity basketball for seven years and varsity basketball for fourteen years before receiving his new position. "This is a goal that I have had and I have accomplished. Now, I will set new

goals," said Davis of his position. His primary goal is to increase student participation at sports events. "I want to find a way to get students to the games," he said. "At most of the Tuesday basketball games, there are more parents in the audience than students. That disturbs me."

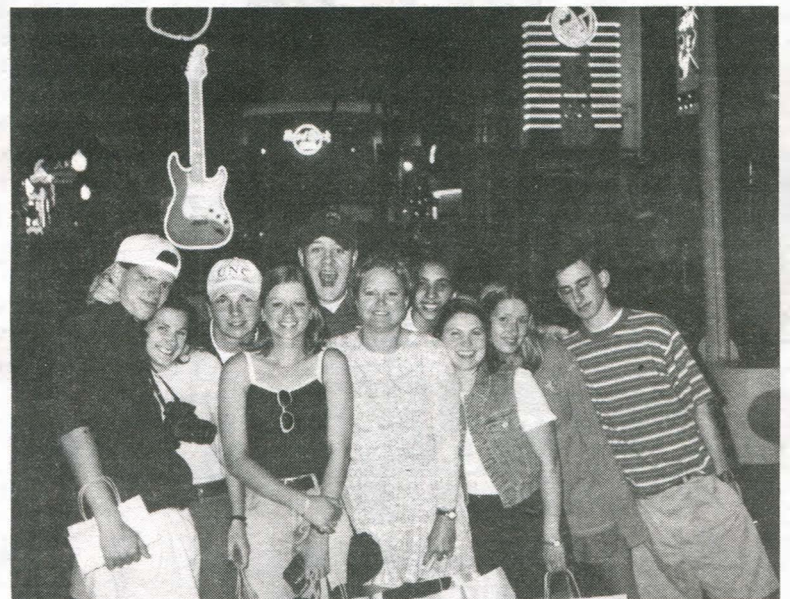
Overall, Davis is looking forward to his position. "I'm a little apprehensive about the position, but I'm the type of person who likes a challenge," he said.

## Two win in national DECA competition

By Mike Klein

On Tuesday, April 29, nine South Meck DECA students and their advisers Mrs. Price and Mr. Shultz took their transcontinental marketing skills west, to Anaheim, California for the 51st National Career Development Conference. Students qualified for the conference based on their performances at the State Career Development Conference in March.

Over a period of five days, students competed in a series of events. These events required a comprehensive one hundred question exam to be taken and two role play situations, with an additional role play included for finalists. The South DECA chapter brought home two winners: Alicia Speller as a series event finalist, and Mike Klein as an overall finalist and a second place winner in the nation in the area of Advertising and Visual Merchandising Services.

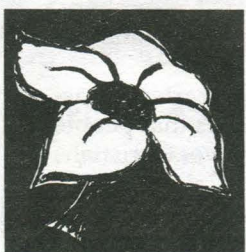


DECA students enjoying Anaheim

In addition to competition, the students also attended workshops, elected national officers, and used free time to see Hollywood, Beverly Hills, attempted to see Compton, and other surrounding tourist attractions.

The North Carolina DECA chapter as a whole was recognized for having the third largest contingent present in Anaheim.

Mr. Holmes  
sprouts  
new  
ideas...

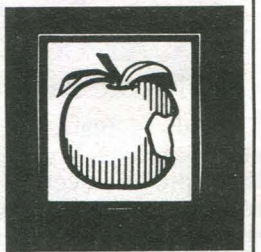


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Prom Pictures  
are here...

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Three  
teachers  
to retire...



Page 8



## A Fond Farewell to Senior Sabres

By Cliff Mauriello

I never look forward to saying goodbye, but sometimes farewells are inevitable, especially after graduation. The classmates and friends we have known for the past four years will soon journey to far away places to begin new lives as college students. It will be important for all of us to remember the things which have made South Mecklenburg such a special place.

Do you remember the Corvette caravans at the homecoming games? How about the emcees at Senior Follies? Do you recall when we came from behind to win the big football game in the fourth quarter? Didn't you have the most wonderful time at the prom? Isn't that the worst yearbook picture you've ever seen?

Who were our homecoming queens and kings? Wasn't he the student body president? Do you remember Miss South? Who was the captain of the team?

Memories are meant to be shared. How often have you gone to someone's house and just spent an evening or an afternoon flipping through yearbooks and talking about all your

experiences? Have you ever spent time talking to a friend on the phone about how much you'll miss high school? How many letters have you written about what you've seen, done and felt?

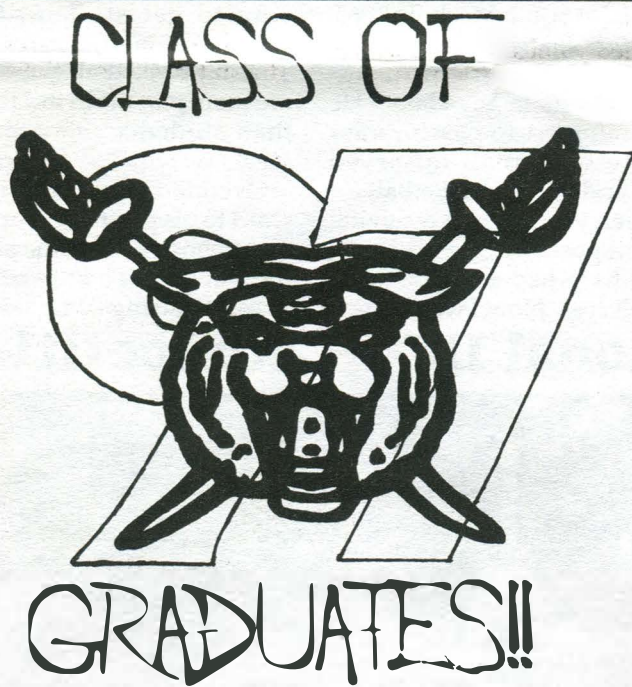
How often is it that we have to say goodbye, even if it is only for a short while? When we move on to college, we will be separated from most of our friends, and for some of us, all we will have to hang on to will be our memories. Treasure all that South Mecklenburg has meant to you.

Next year, when you are feeling homesick or lonely, call up a friend and reminisce about high school.

Oh, if you ever look through the yearbook and see my picture and wonder, "Who was that guy?", just flip to *The Sabres' Blade* page. I'm the lucky guy with all the great friends standing around him in the bushes on the football field.

Thanks for the memories.

Cliff Mauriello '97



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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sabres,

It's unbelievable but unfortunately it's true: My year in the USA is almost over now! I had a great time here at South Meck and want to thank everyone that made it so unforgettable for me. Students, teachers, staff, all of you were so nice and friendly to me, you made me feel as if I were one of you. I'll have a hard time leaving y'all now, but if anybody wants to stay in contact with me, I'll leave my address. Hopefully, this will not be a good-bye forever but an "Auf Wiedersehen!" and I'll come back and visit some day.

Thank you so very much again! Good luck to the seniors that go off to college or off to the "real world" and good luck to everyone else here at South Meck next year. I'll miss you!

Inga Schmid

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## Crack Down on Drunk Driving

By Katie Payerle

North Carolina Legislature has just passed a new law concerning the punishment for drunk driving. According to the new law, drunk drivers are subject to having their cars confiscated and impounded by a judge. A repeat offender may have his driver's license revoked. In the N.C. House of Representatives, the bill passed with a vote of 113-1. I can't help wondering what was going on in the mind of the lone dissenter. Drunk drivers kill thousands of people each year and injure at least three times as many. Something must be done to curb these statistics. I support the NC Congress' decision to crack down on drunk drivers.

The main reason for my support is the need for tougher laws. If we in North Carolina do not want people to drive drunk, it shouldn't matter how harsh the penalty is for drunk driving. Under a harsh law, citizens will be forced to make intelligent decisions regarding the serious risk of drunk driving. The concept is simple: a crime results in a punishment. If a driver is aware that drunk driving is a crime and that the punishment is the confiscation of his car, then only the driver can be blamed when his car is taken away. To say that the

consequences are too extreme is defeating the purpose of a consequence. The bottom line is that if drivers want their cars badly enough, then they will make decisions that allow them to keep their cars. Even drivers that need their cars to make a living should not be awarded an exemption from the law. If a driver needs his car that badly, he should think about that need before turning the key in the ignition while intoxicated. Perhaps they should have thought of their need before they got intoxicated. The government has made the law clear and must hold each driver responsible for his actions. If they fear the consequences enough, drivers will avoid them by obeying the laws on drunk driving.

In addition to keeping drunk drivers off the road, this law allows some good to come of the confiscated cars. According to the bill, the cars will be given to local schools to use or to sell.

The new law can only bring about positive change. Drunk driving will be reduced, the court system will be taken more seriously, and those who insist upon breaking the law will be forced to make a contribution to the school system.

## I plead the First

By Karen Whichard

The Charlotte community has become polarized by the County commission's recent vote to cut arts funding, and the debate over "anti-gay" laws has come barreling into our community. As the movement by the Christian Right to dictate the morals of all Americans hits closer to home, many are questioning what happened to the First Amendment.

From a purely legal standpoint, our country has a long-standing tradition of freedom of religion. This freedom also includes the right not to practice, although America is largely Christian. Even though Christianity may be the majority religion, everyone should not be forced legally to abide by its moral code. Every argument made against homosexuality is backed with a Bible verse, and these scripture references cannot be turned into law

if we are to remain a community where the First Amendment applies.

Economically, Charlotte could be hurt if it is perceived to be an intolerant community. When Cobb County, Georgia put an anti-gay ordinance on the books, the repercussions were far-reaching. Cobb County, which borders Atlanta, was not allowed to participate in many parts of the Olympic Games, such as the carrying of the Olympic Torch. Businesses have also located elsewhere, taking with them jobs and tax revenue.

The most disheartening aspect of the issue is that people who call themselves Christians are openly proclaiming their hate for other individuals. Christianity teaches love and tolerance, and that influence definitely would be welcomed.

## Their Take on It

Tiger Woods a role model of determination

It's only natural to make something more of Woods' victory than just winning a golf game. This Masters win occurred just days before the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic breaking of the color line in baseball. It helps illuminate our continuing struggle to rid ourselves of the racial barriers that have divided us and unfairly hampered the achievements of so many Americans.

We still have much work to do in bringing down those barriers and achieving true equality of opportunity for all Americans. But in Tiger Woods we once again see the possibilities.

Fannie Flono

The Charlotte Observer

Women in violent dating relationships deserve help

Most people recognize domestic violence as a serious social problem, but have been slow to understand that violent dating relationships can be just as dangerous as abusive relationships between married people or boyfriends and girlfriends who live together. What's at work in abusive dating relationships, researchers say, are the same issues of power and control that cause spouse abuse. Young men are abusive to intimidate their girlfriends and gain control. In violent marriages, men beat women because they can and, too often, because they can get away with it.

The Charlotte Observer

Colleges must be fair to women athletes

What parents know is that sports can provide lessons in teamwork, performing under pressure and rebounding after a loss. Their daughters want to play, and do. Parents of athletic daughters must keep asking why it's fair for male athletes at colleges to get more opportunities and a bigger share of the scholarship pie than the women.

Congress decreed long ago that discrimination in college sports was wrong. It's still wrong today.

The Charlotte Observer

Non-athletic black achievements overlooked

While the world went ga-ga for Tiger, jazz composer-trumpeter Wynton Marsalis won the Pulitzer Prize for music. He received just a couple of claps. That's it.

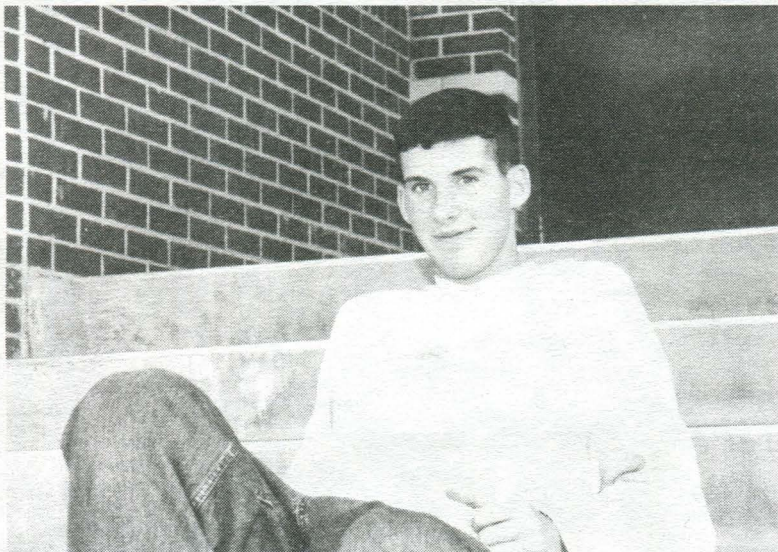
Albert Murray was finally recognized by the National Book Critics Circle. Did NBC, ABC, CBS, or FOX herald this as a great achievement in this country's struggle to overcome its racial divide?

What Woods did was special. But let's get real: Will his win change the way America treats blacks? Not as long as we continue to look past the intellectual achievements of African Americans in favor of the athletic ones.

Frederick L. McKissack



## Faces in the Crowd



**Preferred Food:** Spaghetti  
**Favorite Color:** Blue  
**Novel:** *The Client*  
**In CD Player:** Boyz II Men  
**Birthday:** February 6, 1981  
**Pet Peeve:** Hypocrites

### Head of the class

By Nicole Ewing

If you don't know him by now, you must have been under a rock for the past few months because John van Brederode has definitely made an impression on South. He made the entire school go wild when he rapped at the Student Council elections. He is a clean-cut, intelligent junior who has a bright future ahead of him.

John is one of those people who is good at everything. He maintains a 4.38 GPA in AG and AP classes. John is also a key part of the men's track team, he plays football, basketball, and loves to ski. He was recently elected President of Executive Council, along with being in PAWS, SADD, German Club, German Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Beta Club.

Outside of school, John enjoys

singing, drawing, hanging with his friends, and working out at the YMCA. He is also a Youth Group Leader at his church.

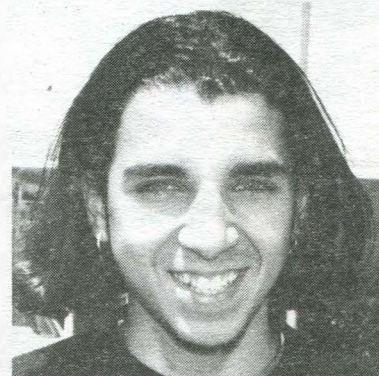
John feels that, "You only fail to accomplish something when you don't try to accomplish it." He has certainly accomplished a lot in his two years at South. He has won numerous awards including the Pepsi Scholar Athlete, and the Wendy's Heisman Invitational Scholarship Nomination. His role model is his older brother Rob. "He has been the best example to me in my life on how to treat people and how to live."

In the future, John plans to attend BYU and pursue a career in medicine. But for now, all he can say to his peers is, "Smile, it can't hurt anyone, and it can sometimes make someone's day."

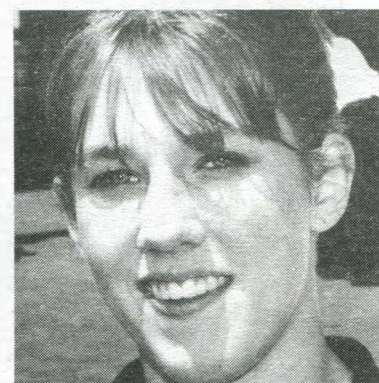
*Has South received too much media attention this year?*



**Chimere Callaway, 11th**  
"The media are exploiting South. They focus on the negative, but don't publicize the positive things."



**Alex Sarkozi, 12th**  
"In Germany the media doesn't care about the schools' problems. The schools keep their problems internal."



**Megan Doughten, 9th**  
"The press only comes for the negative aspects of South."

### Maricia makes a great combination

By Jennifer Collins

Maricia Covington arrives at school every morning in her '89 white Hyundai. With just enough time to make it before the bell, Covington joins the rest of the student body in racing to first period.

Maricia's greatest asset is her ability to stay academically focused while participating in clubs, singing in the Gospel Choir, participating in various community activities, and modeling. She was a member of the Varsity Cheerleading squad this past season and a general member of the Senior Class Council. She held the office of President of NAACP last year. One of Maricia's greatest awards was being a Finalist in Miss Teen NC Pageant.

South has taught Maricia the value of diversity and open-mindedness. Her involvement

in Peaceful Sabres for the past two years has allowed her to experience cultural unity first hand.

Maricia comes from a family of six children, which has instilled values in her that will help her future decision-making.

Maricia enjoys telling the following anecdote about her first name. Her father thought she was going to be a boy and intended for the name of his new son to be Maurice. When the confused parents found out that their child was instead a female, her mother decided on the name Alicia. So as a combination, she received the name Maricia.

Maricia Covington will be attending NCA&T this coming fall, where she intends to major in either biology or fashion design.

### Sabres' Blade reporter wins national award

By Andrew Buchert

The Sabres' Blade staff congratulates our own Katie Payerle, whose editorials were honored by the Quill and Scroll, a journalistic honor society. Both of Katie's entries placed in the top twenty-four of over three hundred entries from around the country. She received a gold charm with the Quill and Scroll logo for each of the two editorials submitted. Katie's editorial, "Attention villagers!" appeared in the October 9, 1996 edition of *The Sabres' Blade*. "A new look at pill popping," the second editorial, ran in the November 13, 1996 issue.

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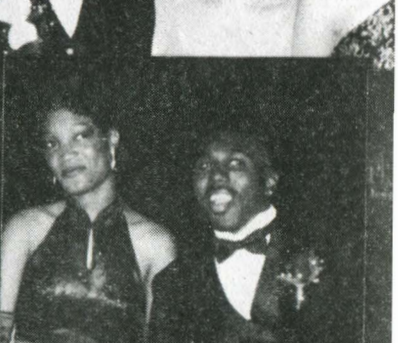
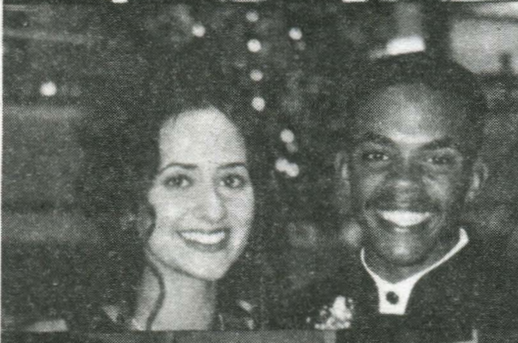
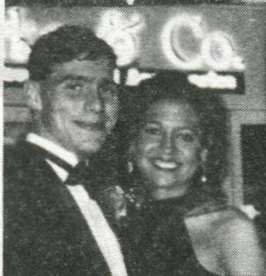
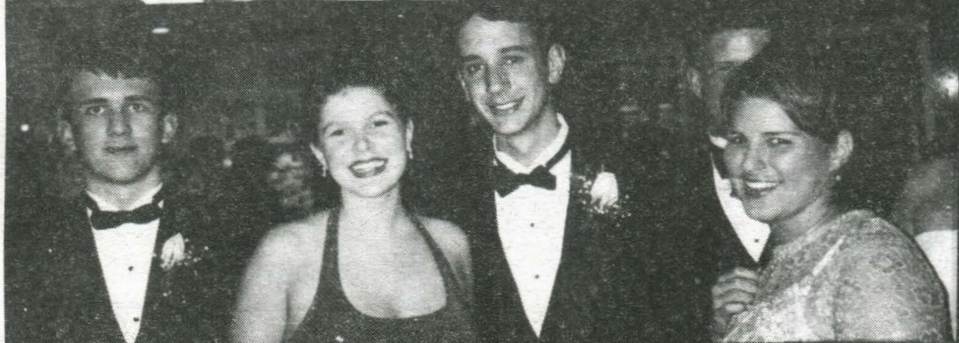
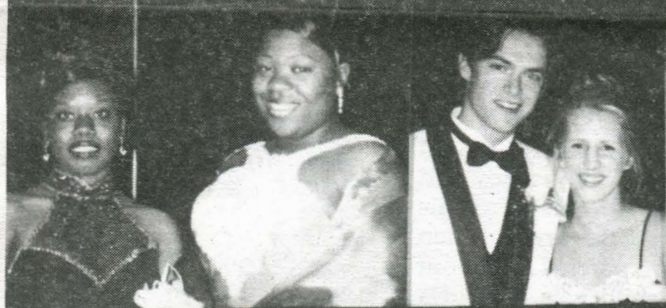
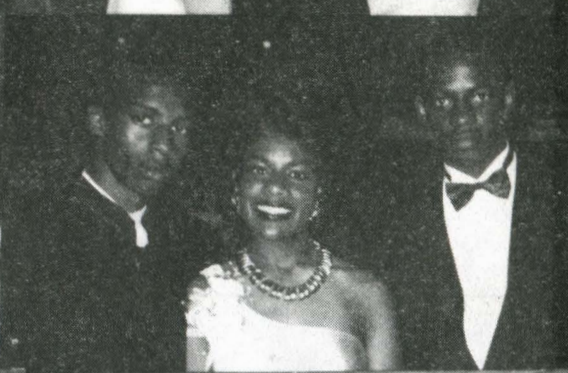
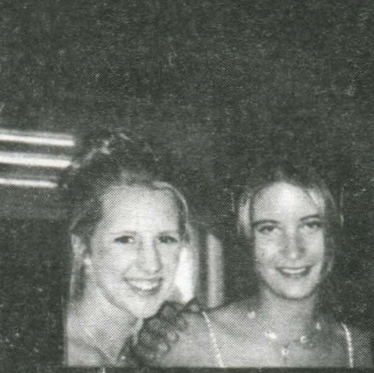
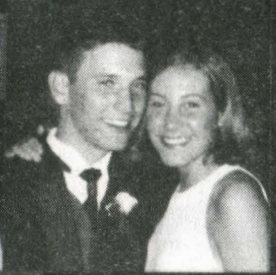
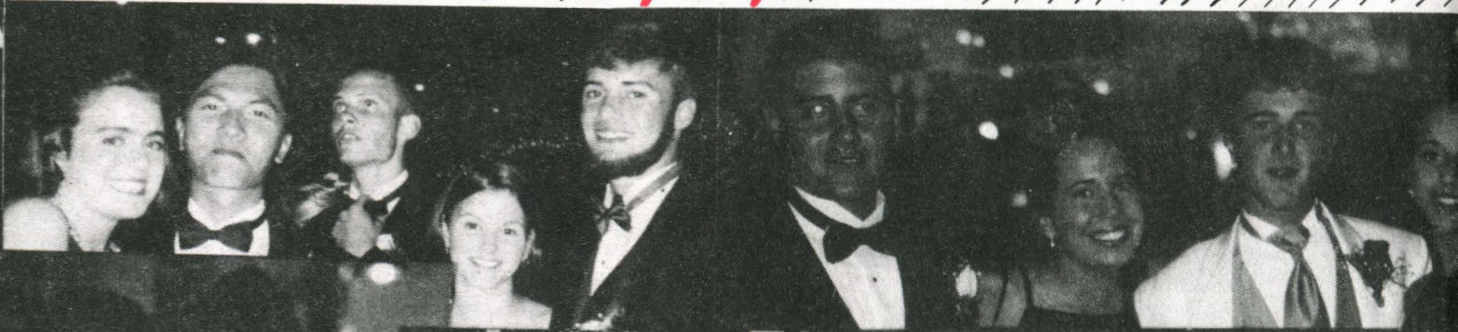
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# Steppin' out





# *in Style*







## South Meck Onstage

By Katie Payerle

The South Meck theatre department presented their last mainstage play for this year on April 17, 18, and 19. The play, "Eat Your Heart Out," is a small cast comedy about a struggling actor-waiter named Charlie and the customers he meets while waiting for his big break.

A cast of 2 females and 3 males play many different characters including a husband and wife, a fortune teller, a nervous bride-to-be, Charlie, another waiter, and a couple of teenagers. All of the younger female parts were played by Lisa Payerle. The older female parts were played by Leslie Starnes. Quay Rogers played the older male parts, and Jte Hagan played the younger male parts. Matthew Jordan led the cast as Charlie.

On opening night, the cast kept the audience laughing through the physical comedy routines. The funniest scene came at the end of Act II when all five members of the cast were onstage trying to get Charlie's attention using bells. Unfortunately, one bell did not work, one man would not stop ringing his, a woman could not decide what she wanted but rang anyway, and Charlie was trying to ask out another woman. The stage was a picture of chaos. Eventually, the man with the broken bell stood on top of a chair that was on top of a table and screamed, "I'm hungry!" The cast was able to create a level of confusion and energy that was side-splitting funny.

Backstage, the crew managed to organize all of the many

props that appeared in the play. The show was as much fun for the cast as it was for the audience. Everyone who worked on the show pulled together well.

"We had a great time preparing and running this play," said Matthew Jordan. "There were times when I thought that we were not going to get it done, but with the cooperation of the cast and crew, we were able to pull it off."

The theatre department also put on two plays by Christopher Durang on May 14 and 15. The first play, For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls, is a parody of The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams. The second play, Desire, Desire, Desire, is a parody of Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire. In Belle, Durang replaced Laura's glass menagerie with Lawrence's collection of glass cocktail stirrers. In Desire, Durang's paradoxical renditions of the characters in Streetcar are constantly interrupted by Maggie from Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, also by Williams. The cast and crew of both shows are Ms. Guzman's Theatre IV/Honors class. Michelle Cashio, the director of Belle says, "The plays were a challenge, but we had fun working with the different styles."

This set of plays was the third set of student directed plays that the Theatre IV/Honors class has mounted this year. Amanda Price, director of Desire says, "This was an educational year in theatre class. I'm really glad we had the opportunity to do so many shows."

## Senior Mysteries: Bobby Patterson and Danielle Lackey

## NJROTC Awards Banquet yields new leaders

By Keith Mason

The Naval Junior ROTC unit held its Annual Awards' Banquet on May 2 at McDonald's Cafeteria after two spectacular exhibitions by the Blue and Gold Waves' and Sabre Rifles' drill teams. At the banquet many cadets were recognized for their outstanding achievements. The 1997-1998 Battalion Staff was named after senior Andrew Bullard, Unit Commander, was relieved of his duties. A prominent rising senior, Andrew Lee, was named the next Unit Commander for the upcoming school year. Commander Lee's new staff includes Lieutenant Commander Jeremy Stafford as the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Michelle Love as the Operations Officer, Ensign Koutsoupais as the Administration Officer, and Master Chief Petty Officer Richard Armstrong as the Unit Master Chief. Commander Lee, the Sabre Rifles' Drill Team Commander; and Ensign Terra

Arrowood, the new Blue and Gold Waves Drill Team Commander, will attempt to take their drill teams to the two premiere national drill meets next year. The cost for these two drill meets will exceed over five thousand dollars. Commander Lee has already made plans to launch a massive fund raising effort to fund transportation to these drill meets.

Next year, the Battalion Staff plans to rule with an iron fist to ensure that the unit meets its maximum potential once more. This year's upper echelon of other graduating seniors; Katie Patton (LCDR), Danielle Mershon (LT), Heather Prekrel (LT j.g.), Joseph Drake (ENS), Dahl Mason (ENS), Chiquita Thomas (ENS), Chris Ritter (CPO), Latrice Ivey (CPO), Alteago Horne (PO2), and Josh Tate (PO3) wish next year's unit staff the best of luck in achieving their goals. The members of the senior class believe that

next year's leaders are capable of success with the unit.

A few members of the graduating senior class have opted to move on further and begin military careers. Joseph Drake has signed to join the United States Marine Corps to be apart of a nuclear weapons security team. Andrew Bullard joined the United States Navy to become an aviation technician. Josh Tate has enlisted with the United States Army. Other members of the senior class will be taking College ROTC courses this fall to possibly seek careers as professional military officers.

With the school year just about over, the entire unit thanks to Commander Harvey, Senior Chief Petty Officer Posey, and First Sargent Bryant for their work this school year.

With dedication and hard work from the NJROTC cadets and Naval Science Instructors next year's unit should be one of the best ever.

## Choir successful in Atlanta competition

By Karen Whichard

South Mecklenburg's two chamber ensembles recently attended a competition in Atlanta, Georgia. Although much smaller than last year's Toronto contest, the festival attracted many prestigious choirs as well as bands and orchestras.

Both ensembles performed well, and the Chamber Singers received an excellent rating, finishing third in their division.

## Three new English teachers join faculty

By Katie Payerle

Three new English teachers joined the staff recently. Alex Thomas, a ninth grade teacher, graduated from Queens College and student taught senior English at South last year.

Tanya Branham, ninth grade English teacher, taught at Fairborn High School in Ohio before she came to South.

Linda Laggos teaches tenth grade English and came to South from Paw Paw High School in Illinois.

The mixed chamber choir did exceptionally well even though thirty percent of the choir was unable to make the trip.

Women's Chamber, in its first full year as a choir at South, also did a good job. They received a superior rating and finished first place in their division. In addition, the Women's Chamber choir did well enough to secure a first place overall award for

treble choirs. Junior Meg Crowley said, "Women's chamber finally showed their talent, emerging from under the shadow of Chamber Choir."

Besides the competition, the two ensembles spent the day at Six Flags theme park, and attended a mystery dinner theater. The dinner theater was one of highlights of the trip.

## Congratulations to South Meck Artists...

Derek Helsel -- First Place at Matthews Artfest Scholarship Competition and Award from Ford Motor Credit Competition

Lauren Coggins-- 2nd place Queens College Art Exhibit  
Sissy Hopkins, Catherine Cooney, Robert Williams, Trip Ingle, Tyler Snyder, and Peter Bentley-- exhibited work in the Litefoot Gallery's opening  
Ginnie Hench- Gold Key and silver key in Scholastic Art Show

Danielle Mershon- Silver Key in Scholastic Art Show  
Alan Nelson- Purchase Award in Scholastic Art Show  
Jessica Smyth, Farrell Beam, Jennifer Martelle, Allen Nelson, Jesse Rademaker, Julie Roberts, Greg Weston, Sarah Martelle-- Honorable Mentions in Scholastic Art Award.  
Kathy Huxley, Allan Nelson and Virginia Hench-- Scholarship for College of Art & Design in Detroit, MI  
Michael Mauriello and Shelly Moore-- Accepted to the NC State School of Design

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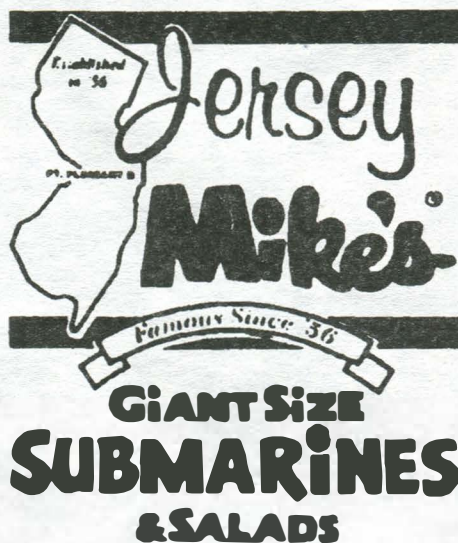
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## Bagwell guides Sabres to playoffs

By Walter Boyle

The baseball team made considerable improvement over the 1997 season. First year coach Hal Bagwell guided the Sabres to second place in conference play and a position in the Southwestern 4A Conference Finals.

Bagwell is not new to Sabre Country. He graduated from South Meck in 1986. The players have formed a good partnership with their new coach.

"I like to think that they think

highly of me. It wasn't a difficult transition. I was more than ready," said Bagwell.

Bagwell's approach has been to provide structured environment for working on the fundamentals.

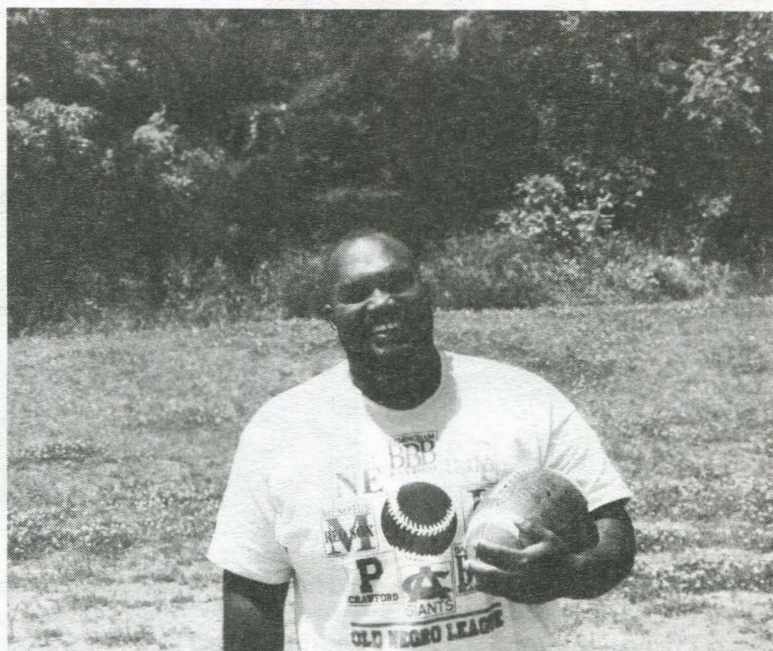
"Our ultimate goal is to get to state playoffs," said Bagwell.

South's victory over Myers Park in the Conference Semifinals clinched that playoff berth and gave the Sabres an

opportunity to play arch rival Providence for the Conference Baseball Title.

Corey Wood pitched a two hitter to earn the win over Myers Park. Matt Hollowecky went 2-3 with a double and 3 RBIs to lead the Sabres at the plate.

South Mecklenburg was the third seed in the tournament. They defeated East Mecklenburg 8-1 in the first round.



Sabres will miss Coach Armstrong.

## Armstrong Leaves South for Garinger

By Branna Calloway

The burly man of few words who hangs out in the Weight Training Room is leaving South to become head football coach of the Garinger Wildcats.

Coach Vince Armstrong is used to transition. From 1990 to 1992, he was an athletic trainer at Providence. From there, he went to Kennedy Middle School, where he coached the boys' soccer team.

Coach Armstrong has been at South for five years and has made many contributions since his arrival. He started the ninth grade girls' basketball and JV girls' softball programs. In addition, Armstrong was the winningest JV girls' basketball coach.

Basketball and softball weren't the only sports Armstrong had

a hand in. He also played a part on the football team. Four of his offensive linemen made the All-Conference Team.

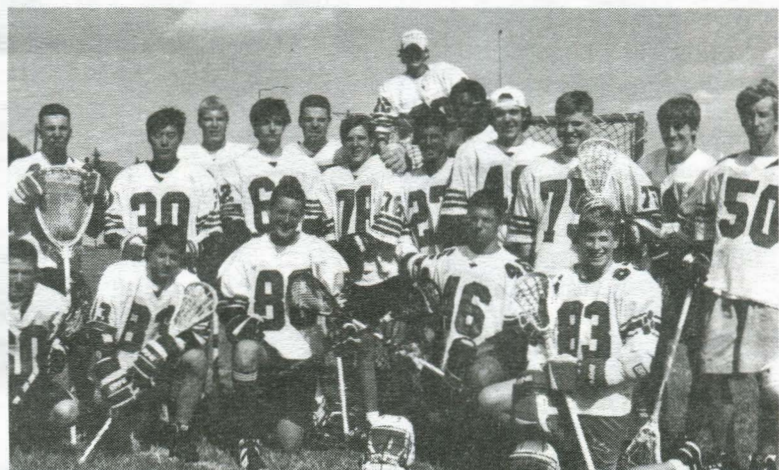
One of the best parts of his job was "having the privilege to coach some of the best kids here at South Meck."

Coach Armstrong said he would miss "the students and the working relationships with my colleagues."

Although he'll miss South, Coach Armstrong looks forward to his new position at Garinger. He hopes to put the football program back on track and to produce a winning team.

Armstrong likes the idea of "changing the fortune of a program."

"It's a great opportunity," Armstrong said.



South's first lacrosse team poses before a game.

## Handfull of Skill, Bucket Full of Heart

By Kevin Ballantine

The Sabres Lacrosse Club finished their inaugural season with a 4-7 record. The team started right by defeating Myers Park 5-4. Evan Lackey had the first goal in South Meck history. That game was followed by a loss to Charlotte Latin and a close overtime loss to West Meck. Then the team buckled down and won two straight against North Meck. A loss to arch rival Providence inspired the Sabres to pull out a double-overtime win against Myers Park, 7-6. The Sabres slumped at the end of the season, losing to Charlotte Latin, Providence, and a team from Atlanta.

Senior captain Kevin Ballantine, Chauncey Phillips, Phillip Russo, and goalie Todd Millroy spearheaded the Sabre defense. Jason Smith, John Bedrosian, Nate VanDerVeer, and Evan Lackey led the Sabre

scoring attack. Joe Wash, Matt Holmes, Andy Biddell, and Chia Chung comprised the midfield. Nick Eckhardt earned a reputation as the Sabre's hardest hitter.

The players' effort has shown that even a first year program can succeed.

"To succeed this year we had to prepare mentally and physically. For many of the players this is their first time ever playing, and taking that into consideration I believe that the lacrosse team has the most heart of any team here at South or in the conference," said Coach Bettis.

## State playoffs for Sabre soccer

By Cliff Mauriello

South Mecklenburg's two losses to the Providence Panthers eliminated the possibility of the Sabres winning a third consecutive Southwestern 4A Conference Women's Soccer Championship, but the Lady Sabres still hope to advance beyond the quarterfinals in the state playoffs.

Experience has been the difference for the Sabres this season. Seven seniors - Kathy van Brederode, Marni Britton, Lauren Coggins, Ginny Hinch, Charlotte Moore, Julie Roberts, Kathy van Brederode, and

Nicole van Every - have helped to lead South Mecklenburg to another berth in the playoffs. Inconsistent play, however, has prevented the team from winning as many games as in the past.

"We have not played as well as we are capable of playing," said Coach Lynch.

The team has also been unhappy with its play. Many of the younger players, however, have made great improvement over the course of the season, especially Sheila Findel.

"Sheila is our most improved

player," said Lynch.

South Mecklenburg won its opening playoff match against Waynesville Tuscola 4-1.

Lauren Coggins, Charlotte Moore, and Nicole van Every made the Southwestern 4A All-Conference Team. During the course of the season, Moore broke the South Mecklenburg career goal record, and Coggins broke the mark for career assists. Moore scored her 100th career goal in the Waynesville Tuscola victory, making her the first Sabre ever to break the century mark.

## Sabre Track Finishes Third at Conference Meet

By Cliff Mauriello

Seniors Cliff and Michael Mauriello finally got the one that slipped away. Avenging a second place finish in the conference meet last year and a fourth place finish at the Dick Williams Metrolina Relays, the 4x800 meter relay team captured the Southwestern 4A Conference Title. The team, which also included freshman Chris Gordon and sophomore Lorenzo Southern, also set the school

record in the event, running 8 minutes and 10 seconds.

It was only the beginning of a very strong showing for the Sabres. Ahmad Blakeney took second in the 100 meter dash, third in the long jump, and third in the 200 meter dash. Anwar McKissik and Lavar Jones placed third in the triple jump and the pole vault respectively. The 4x100 meter relay and the 45x200 meter relay teams both

finished second. Courtney Grier was third in the 300 meter hurdles, and Cliff Mauriello was runner up in the 3200 meter run. The 4x400 meter relay team finished third.

The Sabres placed third in the meet, losing only to champion East Mecklenburg and runner up Providence.

The Lady Sabres finished fifth at the Lady Southwestern 4A Conference Track Meet.

## Softball team gets winning record

By Jennifer Collins and Cliff Mauriello

Coach Leslie Adams guided the Lady Sabre Softball team to a 14-7 record and a 7-5 mark in Southwestern 4A Conference play. The record was good for fourth place in the conference standings. The junior varsity team finished 6-5.

Six Sabres - Jacquie DuBois, Kristi Davis, Jessica Klem, Stacy Sikula, Lisa Coppedge, and Erinn Harris - made the All-Conference Team.

Coach Adams had three goals for her team when the season

started. She hoped everyone would develop fundamentally and mentally, that the team would have a winning record, and that the team would move up in the standings. Coach Adams and assistant coaches Angela Woppman and Emma Hall accomplished all three.

The Sabres defeated the West Charlotte Lions in the first round of the Southwestern 4A Conference Tournament before losing in the second round to Myers Park.

**Congratulations to Chris Prentice: South's Southwestern 4A All-Conference Tennis Player**

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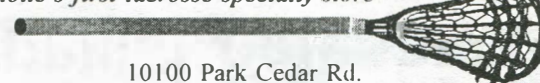
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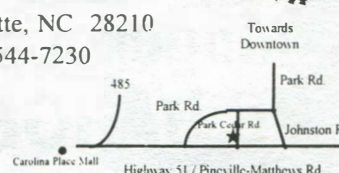
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## Senior Mysteries

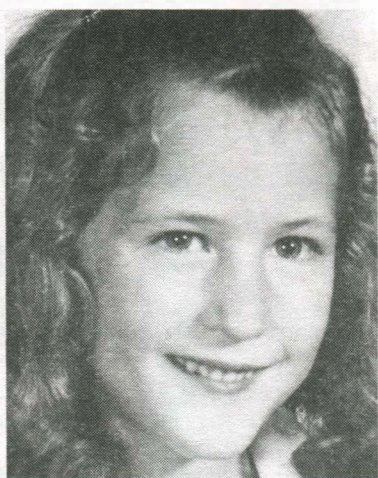


By Kevin Ballantine

This senior mystery always has a smile on his face and is very well known around South's campus. While balancing academics and sports, he still has time to relax. He is known for the aqua-colored bug that he drives around town.

This senior mystery is a member of NAACP. He was on the Varsity Men's Basketball team and the Reverse Homecoming Court this year. This senior has also participated on the track team and football team. On weekends he can be seen working at Autobell.

Can you guess who this senior mystery is? Check page 6.



By Jennifer Collins

This 5'2" senior can be seen driving in her bright yellow Geo Storm. Thirty-two is her lucky number, which can be seen on her parking spot and locker number. Being the president of her church youth group, along with the starting center field player for South's varsity softball team are some of her current activities. Her greatest joy is her dog, Duke. You may recognize her hanging around with her twin brother, who also attends South. Appalachian State University is her choice of school next year. If you haven't figured her out yet, go searching on page 6.

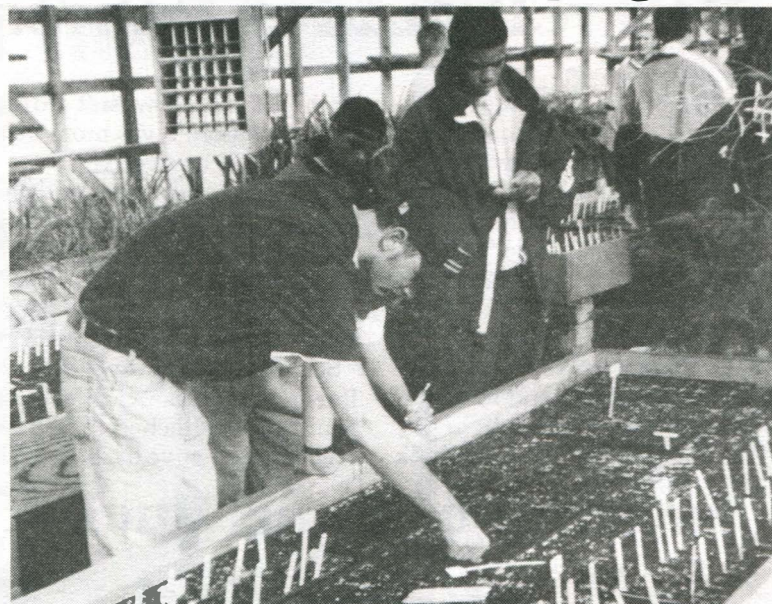
## Holmes guides South's Horticulture program

By Walter Boyle

The greenhouse is in full bloom. There are a variety of plants, colors and smells thanks to the guidance of Mr. John Holmes and the hard work of his students.

Mr. Holmes is in no way new to plants and horticulture. He previously taught for six months at the Applied Technology Center in Rock Hill. "It was a horticulture program where three high schools would funnel students into it. We had a greenhouse, tractors, and orchard; it was a real nice facility." Before that, he taught at Central Piedmont Community College, at York Technical College, and worked at a horticulture consulting firm, Growing Concerns. Mr. Holmes graduated from the University of Maryland with his Bachelor of Horticulture degree in 1981, and received his Masters in Entomology degree in 1983.

The Horticulture classes are involved in many projects such as beautifying the campus, put-



Horticulture I students planting in the greenhouse

ting a cold frame into the greenhouse to keep more plants during the winter, adding a railroad tie stairwell over by the auto shop, and renovating the lawn in front of the building. Next year, Horticulture III will be offered as a new class. This will be a class for the serious gardener.

A variety of students are involved in the horticulture classes; those who are college bound to those who are considering a career in the landscaping field. A wide variety of plants include annuals, perennials, flowers, shrubs, and even trees.

## Students selected to attend Governor's School

By Andrew Buchert

Three South students were selected to attend the North Carolina Governor's School for a six week session this summer. Hillary Vaden was selected to attend in the area performing arts in cello, and Wendi Buffet will be attending in the area of visual arts. Shannon Hurleigh was selected to attend Governor's School for dance.

To be considered for Governor's School, applicants must have a GPA between 3.6 and 4.0, and they must be AG certified. Students must be nominated through the school system and chosen in a lottery.

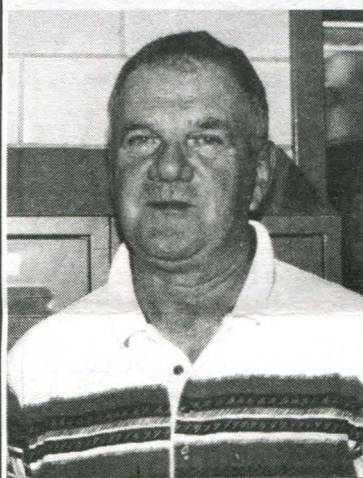
Some areas require an audition or portfolio.

"I know that this is an experience that I will never forget, and I am looking forward to the progress that I hope to make in my music," said Hillary.

Hurleigh will take three hour long dance classes instructed by a staff of elite dancers. "I can't wait," she said. "It will prepare me for college, and I'll be doing what I enjoy everyday of the summer."

"I really wanted to be accepted, and I know the instruction will help me a lot," said Buffet.

## Three teachers to retire from South



Mr. Baldwin

By Katie Payerle

At the end of this year, Mr. Baldwin will retire. He made his decision to leave after 36 years of teaching and 10 years of chairing the Science Department. Baldwin taught his first class at South in 1964.

Mr. Baldwin's contribution does not end at the classroom door. For 23 years he coached soccer, seeing the team through 300 wins. He also coached the Golf team at South achieving 172 wins, a State Championship, 15 conference titles, and 7 Regional titles.

"South Meck is a school with a lot of great people. I'll be sad to go, but it's time to move on," said Baldwin.



Mrs. Fowler

By Karen Whichard

When the school year draws to a close, South will lose its most spirited faculty member. Mrs. Fowler, who is well known for her Sabre red classroom walls full of newspaper clippings dating back to the Walter Davis era, is retiring after 34 years as a teacher.

Mrs. Fowler, who has taught at South for 29 years, is the founder of Proud and Working Sabres, or P.A.W.S., the schools largest spirit club.

When asked what stands out about South's student body, Fowler replied with a smile, "Good spirit and good friends are probably what I'll remember most."



Mr. Hillier

By Andrew Buchert

At the close of this school year, one of South's most familiar faces will be missing. Long-time faculty member coach Ron Hillier has announced his retirement after twenty-five years at South. Hillier has been teaching at South since 1972, and he has been the Athletic Director since 1993.

"I am very blessed and fortunate to have been able to teach at South," said Hillier. "I really appreciate the closeness with the students. I received more than I gave."

"But it is the right time and the right place to move on," said Hillier, "Sometimes old dogs need to learn new tricks."

### Summer School Program

#### Remediation Course Work:

Session I: July 2 - July 17  
Session II: July 18 - July 31  
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### New Course Work:

Session I: June 7 - July 9  
Session II: July 10 - July 30  
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### Tuition:

Remediation - \$115 (two weeks), \$230 (four weeks)  
New Course Work: \$235 (three weeks), \$470 (six weeks)



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